United Nations A/C.2/67/L.35

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
8 November 2012

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Second Committee
Agenda item 17
Information and communications technologies for development

Azerbaijan, Belarus, China, Israel, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Turkey

Building connectivity through the Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 64/186 of 21 December 2009,

Recalling also the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003,[1] and endorsed by the General Assembly,[2] and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by the Summit at its second phase, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005,[3] and endorsed by the General Assembly,[4]

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[5]

Stressing the need to reduce the digital divide and to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, are available to all, and welcoming, in this regard, the Connect the Commonwealth of Independent States summit held in Minsk in 2009 as a regional initiative aimed at mobilizing human, financial and technical resources to accelerate the implementation of the connectivity goals of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Noting that Governments, as well as the private sector, civil society and the United Nations, and other international organizations, have an important role in bridging the digital divide for the benefit of all and in building an inclusive and people-centred information society,

[1] See A/C.2/59/3, annex.
[2] See resolution 59/220.
[3] See A/60/687.
[4] See resolution 60/252.
[5] Resolution 60/1.

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Recognizing that well-developed information and communication network infrastructures, such as information superhighways, act as one of the main technological enablers of the digital opportunities, and noting, in this regard, the Regional Ministerial Meeting on the Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway convened by the Government of Azerbaijan in cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, held in Baku on 11 November 2008,

Noting the establishment of the Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway project secretariat in 2011, headquartered in Baku, and the work undertaken by the secretariat so far,

1. *Recognizes* that information and communication technologies have the potential to provide new solutions to development challenges, particularly in the context of globalization, and can foster economic growth, competitiveness, access to information and knowledge, poverty eradication and social inclusion that will help to expedite the integration of all countries, particularly developing countries, into the global economy;

2. *Also recognizes* the immense potential that building connectivity can have in contributing to social progress, including in advancing the status of women and promoting social integration and tolerance;

3. *Stresses* the importance of strengthened and continued cooperation among all stakeholders to build and run information infrastructures to bridge the digital divide in the region, and encourages interested Member States to participate in the development of regional connectivity solutions;

4. *Recognizes* the need to build connectivity in the region to help to bridge the digital divide, and in this regard welcomes the Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway project and the support provided by the intended participants;

5. *Encourages* the international community to support improved global telecommunications connectivity, with a focus on Eurasian countries with inadequate access to the international information and communications technology backbone, through participation in the Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway project;

6. *Recognizes* the importance of the Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway project in diversifying and improving telecommunications transit routes between Asia and Europe, and in this regard invites Member States to further support the project by encouraging, as appropriate, the participation of the public and private sectors;

7. *Welcomes* the proposal to establish the Eurasian Connectivity Alliance, coordinated by the International Telecommunications Union, aimed at realizing the synergies among Governments, the private sector and international development institutions with a view to improving the regional information and communications technology infrastructure.